



Latham House in Fisher Park.

Park Neighborhoods, 1900-1919

Although people continued to build in established residential districts well into the twentieth century new neighborhoods created around parks became quite popular. As early as 1889, Basil J. Fisher, a native of Scotland who settled in North Carolina, promoted a development north of the city limits. His newspaper advertisement read:

The Residential Property, on the Map below, is the most desirable in the whole City of Greensboro It is near the Court House and busiest part of this flourishing City. It will be in direct contact with the prospective Tram Car System running through the principal thoroughfares and straight to the depot. The position is most salubrious, being high and with a natural drainage, and of a light sandy soil All lots with 5 exceptions are 150 feet deep; . . . Prices range from \$10 a foot on North Elm Street, to \$7 and \$6 on Wainman and Simpson streets.

In 1901 Fisher further promoted the area by donating a tract of land as a city park. He established three residential streets as borders for the wooded area and built his home on South Park Drive. Located both east and west of North Elm Street, the Fisher Park neighborhood was eight-tenths of a mile from the center of town. In 1915, Kirby Moore, a local realtor whose firm had just finished building fifteen Fisher Park houses, complained that the suburb was "too far out" for buyers. Many who desired to escape downtown with its tobacco plants and railroad congestion disagreed. Fisher Park houses featured

porches that extended living space into the outdoors, and the combination of modern residences in a suburban setting created a unique neighborhood.

Several of the houses in this neighborhood were constructed on a grand scale. James E. Latham, a cotton broker and financier, lived in a stone mansion on Fisher Park Circle. Built in 1915 in the prairie style made popular by Frank Lloyd Wright, the house contained 13,800 square feet and seventeen rooms, including six bedrooms and six baths. This residence has recently been divided into condominiums and is known as Baker Place. The Tudor Revival-style Julian Price house on Fisher Park Circle (1929) was designed by Greensboro architect Charles Hartmann for the president of the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company. Many notable houses also appeared within the park along Elm Street. In 1919 the John Galloway House at 1007 North Elm was completed. The granite structure with a red tile roof was designed in the Tudor Revival tradition by Greensboro architect Harry Barton.

Other early houses in the neighborhood, more modest than these mansions, can be seen along North and South Park drives and Bessemer Avenue. As the years passed, small houses were added on lots created from larger lots, and some of the bungalows in the neighborhood were even built from kits sold by Sears, Roebuck and Company during the 1920s. By 1928 Temple Emanuel, First Presbyterian Church, and a chapel for Holy Trinity Episcopal Church had been constructed in Fisher Park.

The construction of Greensboro's first electric trolley lines early in the twentieth century spurred additional development in the western part of the city. The first trolleys ran on June 11, 1902, the Greensboro Electric Company having completed a seven-mile network of trolley tracks reaching from downtown to South Greensboro, to Proximity on the north, and beyond the western city limit. At the western end of the trolley line was a second residential area, named for J. Van Lindley, who donated twenty-six acres of land in western Greensboro to serve as a park. The Lindley Park amusement area, which opened on July 4, 1902, featured a pavilion, artificial lake, casino, and bowling alleys. Families could travel there by trolley from downtown, the three-mile trip taking approximately one-and-one-half hours. A residential area soon developed around Lindley Park.

This new neighborhood was adjacent to an earlier community named Pomona (the Roman goddess of fruit trees) where owners and employees of Lindley Nurseries, the Pomona Terra